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In the Heart of Virginia's Dark Tobacco Belt
Appomattox, Virginia

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AN OPPORTUNITY NOT TO BE LOST

The announced early retirement of Justice Minton from the United States Supreme Court merits two comments. First, he was about the only member of the court who had appreciable federal judicial experience prior to his appointment. Second, it is to be prayed that the President will nominate someone with federal judicial experience to replace him. Membership on the Supreme Court is not a patronage job to be handed out to men not qualified by experience.

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ON TEACHING HISTORY

There are several states, including the State of Illinois, which, by legislation, require all public schools and other educational institutions supported by public funds, to teach United States history and the principles of representative government.

While it is obvious that the teaching of history varies in many respects, dependent upon the attitude of the teacher, there is much to be said in favor of requiring that the history of our nation be studied. Certainly, all Americans should know the history of their country and understand the voting system that enables them to elect their leaders.

The purpose of instructing pupils in the history of this country is to enable them to be effective and intelligent citizens. This means that they should be taught both sides of controversial issues, whether they affect economics, politics or society.

We believe that the young people of our nation should have a knowledge of our country's "glorious" history, but we believe, just as strongly, that they should have a thorough understanding of the episodes which are not quite so glorious. Like every other nation, we must admit, we have some mistakes on our record, and it is important that these be studied, understood and, if possible, avoided in the future.

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WATCH YOURSELF PHYSICALLY

About the only time the average citizen pays any attention to his, or her, physical well-being is when illness or accident puts them to bed. This is, unfortunately, true in regards to most persons. It is a reflection upon the intelligence that men and women are supposed to possess.

The neglect of one's body is comparable only to our our neglect in regard to one's mental powers. Every individual has abundant opportunity to improve intellectually but very few of us bother ourselves to do so.

When it comes to the realm of spiritual improvement, the average individual goes into complete eclipse, except in extremely rare and trying moments. Those of us who believe in the possession of a soul know full well that our spiritual growth is possible and that it is the greatest function of human existence.

In spite of this belief and the faith that moves us along life's highway, we carelessly drift along without bothering very much about principles or the lack of them. Few of us attempt to guide our daily lives by the eternal verities that we profess to believe.

The encouraging thing about individual growth is that it requires no committee meetings, no mass purpose and no assistance from other people. It is one job that the individual can plan and complete upon his own, personal initiative. The only question to be answered is, "When will we begin?"

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THINK FOR YOURSELF

The average American, perplexed by the great issues that confront the people of this fabulous country, finds it difficult to develop sound opinions in the face of the rabid partisanship that is exhibited by politicians, newspapers writers, radio and television commentators, and other so-called leaders of public opinion.

There is quite a tendency on the part of many of us to accept, without question, any statement or assertion that fits in with what the individual wants to believe. Moreover, there is a lamentable determination on the part of nearly everybody to try to persuade everybody else to fall in line with whatever is being peddled by the individual.

It might be a good idea for us, once in a while, to pay tribute to the stubborn independence of the hardy citizen who has the nerve to look the population in the face and say, despite the popular flurry, "I don't agree."

If fact, it might be even better, when you run across somebody who disagrees with you for you to give your own views a mental checkup, intelligently assessing your own opinions on the basis of what you know to be the truth. This does not mean accepting the opinions of others as an undeniable fact. It means using your own intelligence and experience to balance your own thoughts and actions.

This is a period in which a lot of sound thinking should be going on in America. Seldom has our nation, state and community faced so many challenging problems.

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BOOM OR BUST AHEAD

The economists of the nation have not been able to agree about the probable trend of business affairs in the United States, being divided between those who think the current boomwill soon burst and others who suggest that there is no reason for anyone to expect a depression, or recession.

Nearly all of the experts hedge by suggesting a leveling-off process in the early future. Some even say that it is underway and add that there is no reason to expect prices to drop back anywhere near former levels.

Others point out that every boom is inevitable followed by a recession, or sometimes a depression, and that the longer the boom and the higher the ascent, the sharper and more severe the consequent depression.

We do not know what is ahead for the nation as a whole, but there is never a time when it is not sound advice for everyone to keep their own financial house in order. Wise buying, maintenance of good credit rating and limited borrowings and then only on sound assests, are part of an individual program that seldom changes. Those who keep their own financial house in order will weather a storm.

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Asked why he pulled his wheelbarrow instead of pushing it, a local workman replied, "I hate the sight of the danged thing." —Bristol, Va., Herald Courier.

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If you listen carefully, you can hear the seashore calling, along about this time of the year.

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The person who always looks for the "best buy" often goes through life with second choices.

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

International Uniform Sunday School Lessons

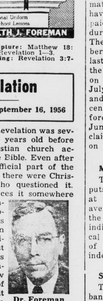
BY DR. KENNETH J. FOREMAN

Background Scripture: Matthew 18: 20, John 21:14; Revelation 1—3.
Devotional Reading: Revelation 3:7-13.

Revelation

Lesson for September 16, 1956

THE book of Revelation was several hundred years old before the whole Christian church accepted it into the Bible. Even after it became an official part of the New Testament, there were Christian scholars who questioned it. Saint James places it somewhere between the "canonical" and "apocryphal" books — that is, between Bible and not-Bible. Luther's first preface to his German translation of the New Testament said of Revelation that it did not seem to be either apostolic or prophetic. He came to think better of it, but he never did print Revelation except as an appendix to the New Testament. Zwingli, the Swiss reformer, considered Revelation "not Biblical"; and John Calvin, who wrote commentaries on almost every other book of the Bible, never undertook to write on Revelation.



Dr. Foreman

A Strange Book

One of the reasons why so many distinguished Christians have had difficulty with the book of Revelation is the simple one: it is extremely hard to understand. Its pages swarm with weird monsters; fire and blood flow through its scenes; it is loud with the agonies of a crashing universe. Literally hundreds of persons, fascinated by the puzzles here, have written out their answers in books and commentaries; but the very fact that these commentators do not agree among themselves is eloquent testimony to the fact that no one yet has found the key that gives an answer the whole church accepts. What makes the book so strange is that it is written in the language of symbols. As one eminent conservative scholar, Dr. Warfield, said (with some exaggeration), everything in the book means something else. The author as it were puts us on notice when he tells us himself that his "stars" mean angels, and "lampstands" mean churches, and "incense" means prayers. Even the numbers in this book are symbolic—that is, not to count with but to express ideas. Readers who wish to pursue the study of Revelation more fully should write to their denominational headquarters and inquire whether their church has authorized some particular interpretation of this book. So wide are the disagreements that this writer could not recommend any one book without raising objections from some part of the church or other.

Some Things Are Clear

Sunday school lesson planners seldom select from Revelation; but those who planned our current series, used in more than 80 denominations, wisely selected three studies based on parts of Revelation about which there can be little dispute. For some things in this obscure book are clear as day; and it is probably in gratitude for these things, rather than in hope of unraveling all the knots, that the church, in spite of its uncertainties, has kept this book at the end of the Bible all these centuries. One of the clearer and best-loved sections is in the first three chapters, where we have seven letters to seven churches of Asia Minor. There is obscurity here too; but also much light. Those seven churches have gone the way of all flesh, long since. But in those sharply etched pen-pictures the modern reader can see portraits, amazingly modern, which come close to describing churches we all have seen.

Christ in His Churches

The warnings and the promises to those far-off and long-gone churches are good today for us. One thing stands out in every one of these short piercing messages to the "seven churches": Every true church—then, now always—is a true one only when and so long as it keeps faithful to Christ, so long as he can be satisfied with it. What are the points of a church Christ approves? The reader of Revelation can make his own list and should not skip the first two in the very first letter: "hard work and patient endurance" (to follow Moffatt's translation). It should be noted too that even in the church most praised (Ephesus) the thing that comes in for blame is their let-down of love. For of all things that make a church weak and un-Christian, loss of love is the most serious. Even Christ's severest judgments are judgments of love. To the weakest and worst church of the seven, the word is, "As many as I love, I rebuke."

(Based on outlines copyrighted by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U. S. A. Released by Community Press Service.)

Washington Notes

GAS REFUNDS

The Internal Revenue Service reports that only 400,000 of an estimated 3,000,000 eligible farmers have applied for refunds on taxes paid on gasoline used on farms during the first six months of 1956. The deadline for filing is September 30. Congress approved a bill last spring authorizing refund of the two-cents-a-gallon Federal tax on farm gas and Diesel fuel. On July 1, the Federal tax on gasoline and Diesel fuels went up from 2 cents to 3 cents a gallon. Therefore, in the fiscal year ending next June 30, farmers will be able to claim 3 cents a gallon for fuel used on farms and for farming purposes.

MEDICAL COSTS UP

The Bureau of Labor Statistics puts its medical-care category now at 132 per cent of the 1947-49 average, compared with 116.2 for the entire consumer price index, indicating that the cost of medical care has taken the biggest rise of any item on the cost-of-living index.

SAVINGS

The nation's 527 mutual savings banks reported a year-end total of $28,500,000,000 as their share of the savings poll, a postwar gain of nearly $13,000,000,000.

HOME BUILDING

The construction of new housing throughout the nation continued to decline in July, according to the Labor Department. The Bureau of Labor Statistics has placed the total of new housing units begun during July at 101,000 —, or 3,000 less than in June, and 22,000 fewer than in July of 1955. The decrease was entirely in privately-owned housing, which has accounted for almost all new dwelling units started in recent years.

CAMPAIGN COSTS CHECK

Senate subcommittee on Privileges and Elections has announced plans to keep a close, running check on campaign fund raising and spending this fall. Senator Albert Gore (D.,Tenn.) is chairman of the committee.

YELLOWSTONE

More than $30,000,000 will be spent in a long-range program to improve the Yellowstone National Park, according to the Department of Interior. The park, established by Congress in 1872, now embraces about 2,213,000 acres of Federal lands in Wyoming, Idaho, and Montana. It is one of the world's greatest wild life sanctuaries and wilderness areas.

U. S. HOUSEHOLDS

The number of American households may increase an average of between 700,000 and 1,000,000 a year for the next twenty years, according to the Census Bureau. The Bureau estimates that by 1960 there might be from 50,500,000 to slightly under 52,000,000 households compared to 47,800,000 estimated early in 1955. By 1976, the total may be between 61,500,000 and 67,500,000.

Subscription rate: $2.00 a year; payable in advance.

BOY, 9, SAVES 4

Victor, Texas.—Mack Dean rescued his father and three from the Sabine River with tube. The girls were swimming when a sudden whirlpool came in the river. The girl drowned. brought Hubert Davis, of Beaumont, to the rescue but the strong was too much for him. He swam out into the water with the tube, swam to near the girls, dived to the bottom and pushed the tube to father, with the aid of the tube, rescued the girls and worked his way clear of the whirlpool. All were safe and unharmed.

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FARM NEWS

By J. A. Smith, County Agent

AGRICULTURE NEEDS COLLEGE-TRAINED PEOPLE

Are you going to college this year to study agriculture?

This is the advice from Extension workers.

They point out that there are more than 300 different types of agricultural vocations ranging from farming—research, industry, business, education, communications, production, special services, and others. These eight agricultural fields could employ about 15,000 college graduates a year, if they were available. At present the land - grant agricultural colleges graduate only about 8,500 men and women each year in agricultural sciences — about one-third as many as are needed to fill the jobs.

Only about 40 per cent of all jobs in the same phase of agriculture, Extension workers say. Of 7,000 employed Americans, 6,000 are in agriculture. Of these, around 7,700,000 are employed on farms.

High school seniors can prepare themselves for one of these future jobs by taking basic and special agricultural studies at a land-grant college. In Virginia, the land-grant institution is Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg.

Each county agent will be glad to talk with prospective students about the choice of a career in agriculture. Ask him for a copy of the pamphlet, "Careers Ahead."

Storages for Corn Crop

Cribs or corn storages on the farm this year may be necessary before next time.

Clean out the storage place. Repair roof, sides and floors. Be sure the storage is rat-proof and bird-proof. Screening the sides and ventilator openings, and installing metal strips on the edges of the floors will help keep out pests. For air-drying, cribs should not be over 5 feet wide, and should have 1 to 1½ inch slat openings on sides. Each forced-air drying unit must be planned to meet individual needs. Forced-air makes it easier harvesting.

Have you have corn storage, grain bins and a hammermill shelter in same building, you'll save much time and labor.

Statistics in Milk May Bring Federal Clean-Up

Farmers ignoring recommendations on the use of mastitis ointments containing penicillin are warning federal officials to take steps to remove any trace of the antibiotic in the milk supply.

A recent survey by the Food and Drug Administration shows that about 6 per cent of the marketed milk supply contains penicillin. Officials say that many people become sensitive to even this amount of penicillin and that none of the antibiotic should be left in milk.

The FDA has called a meeting for this month (September) with veterinarians, health officials and manufacturers to work up a program to "clean up the milk supply." Just what action will be taken won't be known until after the conference. Several approaches are under consideration.

One of these is to ban outright the use of penicillin for mastitis treatment. FDA officials say this ban would apply only to penicillin. Other antibiotics, such as aureomycin, are said to be just as effective but without the threat of endangering public health.

Other steps being considered include an order to manufacturers to dye penicillin - containing ointments a specific color. Thus, milk from treated cows would be colored until the penicillin was dissipated. Also, manufacturers will be asked to print bigger warnings on mastitis ointment packages and syringes telling farmers to follow directions carefully.

Official recommendations on the use of penicillin ointments say that milk from treated cows should be discarded, or used for stock feeding only, for at least three days after treatment. One FDA official says: "There is no question in our minds that most of the penicillin which now is getting into the nation's milk supply is directly due to many farmers ignoring this recommendation."

1957 Wheat Outlook

A substantial reduction in the record wheat surplus may be possible by next year. The government program for wheat for the coming production year calls for putting in the Soil Bank 12 to 15 million acres of the 55 million acre national allotment. Changes in the wheat export programs, effective September 4, 1956, are expected to cause substantial quantities of wheat for commercial export to be drawn from free market supplies.

As a result of the market influence of the new export program and smaller 1957 crop prospects, it is estimated that the price to farmers in 1956-57 may average at about the support level of $2.00 per bushel.

The supply of wheat for the 1956-57 marketing year is estimated at 1,974 million bushels. This is a new all-time high composed of the July 1 carry-over of 1,030 million bushels plus the 1956 crop estimated at 939 million bushels plus about 5 million bushels imported. Estimating domestic disappearance at 611 million bushels, and assuming exports remain at about the same level, the carry-over neft July would be about 1,022 million bushels and would be the first time that the carry-over did not increase since 1952.

If the Soil Bank program is successful in putting 12 million to 15 million acres in the Soil Bank, the 1957 crop would be about 40 million to 43 million acres. At average yields, and assuming demostic use and exports remain at current levels, total disappearance of wheat would exceed a 700 million bushel crop by about 250 million bushels, thereby resulting in the first substantial reduction in our burdensome wheat supply since 1952.

PRODUCTION OF YEARLING STEERS UNDER STUDY AT EXPERIMENT STATION

Different methods of producing beef of desirable carcass quality and weight from yearling steers are under study at the Glade Spring branch of VPI Agricultural Experiment Station.

Scientists there explain that tests have indicated that steer and heifer calves without the benefit of conventional manner and grazed on excellent bluegrass pastures will generally produce carcasses grading commercial at the end of their yearling summer.

In recent years, consumer demand has been for lighter weight carcasses that will grade high-good or low-choice. This usually means yearling steers or heifers weighing from 850 to 1,000 pounds.

It seems evident, the scientists say, that some source of high energy feed, in addition to pasture and forage, will be necessary to finish yearling cattle to good or choice grades. Because of the difficulty of producing grain in most of southwest Virginia, a system of management whereby desirable slaughter cattle could be produced from yearling steers with a minimum of grain-feeding would fit on many farms of the area.

Specifically, the Glade Spring tests aim to find production methods which will use a maximum amount of pasture and a minimum amount of grain, and to find the best time of year for the most economical production of good to choice carcasses from yearling steers.

New Equipment to Improve Postal Service

Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield said today the Post Office Department is getting 5,743 new trucks, 1,500 new motor scooters, 2,000 more bicycles and 6,000 golf-caddy-type letter carrier carts to speed mail to the nation.

Also, 200 post offices, stations and branches will get new counter facilities this year, while 22,500 mail boxes will be ordered this year and delivered by next spring for installation in growing communities over the nation.

The 5,743 new trucks include 968 ordered. Delivery will be completed in six months, and many will be on hand to speed Christmas mailings.

Bids from automotive manufacturers will be opened this month on the remaining 2,775 trucks. Orders will be placed promptly, and delivery is expected to start late this year, with complete delivery well before the end of 1957.

Bids will be opened also this month for the 1,500 motor scooters. Delivery will start late this year, and be completed in early 1957.

This order will be a major extension of the scooter program. These light 3-wheeled vehicles have been developed by the Post Office Department in cooperation with manufacturers to put many carriers on wheels and further speed deliveries.

The 6,000 hand carts for use by letter carriers on foot have been ordered. Deliveries of these hand carts will begin starting this month and will be completed in October. This is the first production-line order of these carts by the Department, although experimental models have been in use for some time. These aluminum carts, which look much like the familiar golf cart, will take a big load off the letter carriers' backs.

The Post Office Department is now arranging for the purchase of the 2,000 new bicycles, and delivery is expected soon. These will be used by carriers in various areas, particularly suburban areas, where the length of the route and climate conditions make their use most feasible. Some have been in use in Southern communities, but this new order will represent a considerable expansion of the bike program.

The new counters or "counter-lines" for post offices, branches and stations in various communities will be part of a program to modernize and improve the service areas of these installations where stamp windows, parcel post counters, money order windows, and the like, directly serve the public.

Old-fashioned facilities for this purpose usually include the familiar tall wooden barrier with a few small windows. Sometimes the windows have bars, and are almost always too small. The result is the postal clerk and his patrons are cramped and delayed in conducting their business. The new facilities will be open counter types in most cases, somewhat like those in modern banks, providing functional beauty and greatly increased convenience.

The new mail boxes being ordered for delivery next spring include 12,500 regular neighborhood mail boxes used by patrons for deposit of mail. Thousands of these will be equipped with "snorkels" or chutes that extend from the back of the box toward the street. It is easy to deposit mail in these snorkels from the window of the family car.

The remaining 10,000 new boxes, not for ordinary deposit of mail by patrons, are storage boxes, located away from the local post office. They are of great value in speeding deliveries. For example, they enable a carrier making deliveries in a suburban neighborhood to pick up his second load of mail without going back to his post office or station.

The new trucks, motor scooters, bicycles and mail boxes will be painted in the Post Office Department's non-familiar red, white and blue colors.

This popular painting program, engineers report, gives the vehicle or the mail box more visibility, particularly at night. Modern paints used are long-lasting, attractive and economical. In the case of older vehicles, new colors are applied only when a new paint job is required.

The 2,968 trucks already on order are (all are on 3/4 ton chassis): 1,000 sit-stand, righthand drive, 140 cu. ft. body; 1,250 standard parcel delivery, 200 cu. ft. body; 718 standard parcel delivery, 300 cu. ft. body.

The new vehicle program of the Post Office Department, Mr. Summerfield explained, represents one of the most important steps taken since 1953 to modernize the postal service in line with the President's mandate to improve service and reduce costs.

The U. S. is preparing to track its artificial moons.

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